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TERRESTRIAL TARDIGRADES AROUND SYOWA STATION (ABSTRACT)

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Many tardigrades of the Antarctic region have been studies from the beginning of this century. However, in the north-east area were the Japanese Syowa Station is located, only a few species were reported previously.

After these reports, we found five species of tardigrades from the same station and Sør Rondane (K. UTSUGI and Y. OHYAMA: Proc. NIPR Symp. Polar Biol., **2**, 190–197, 1989). Later we surveyed Molodezhnaya and Mt. Riiser-Larsen to the east of Syowa Station and found nine species from the samples of both areas (K. UTSUGI and Y. OHYAMA: Proc. NIPR Symp. Polar Biol., **4**, 161–170, 1991). The characteristics of these tardigrades were described in these two papers (1989, 1991).

To combine the previous reports and our findings, 10 species of tardigrades including 3 unidentified species are found from Syowa Station (Ongul Islands to Strandnibba). Two species, *Macrobiotus harmsworthi* and *Diphascon conjungens*, are our new findings from the inland area of Sør Rondane. Four species, *Echiniscus kerguelensis*, *Macrobiotus montanus*, *Isohypsibius saracenus* and *Diphascon conjungens* are also our new findings from the coastal areas of Syowa Station, Molodezhnaya and Mt. Riiser-Larsen. In contrast, *M. harmsworthi*, *Hypsibius arcticus* and *Diphascon chilenense* are widely distributed in these areas.

It is conceivable that the difference of tardigrade distribution depends on moss and algae flora or the climate in the survey area.

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